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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/573,474	10/11/2006	Bertrand Thisselin	288636US0PCT	9370
22850	7590	07/11/2008		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
HUFTY, JOEIN PAGE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3747				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/11/2008		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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**Office Action Summary****Application No.**

10/573,474

**Applicant(s)**

THISSELIN, BERTRAND

**Examiner**

J.PAGE HUFTY

**Art Unit**

3747

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05/15/2008.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03/24/2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-624)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/16/2008, 06/15/2006  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-6 in the reply filed on 05/15/2008 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that a lack of unity has not been properly established. This is not found persuasive because the claims as set forth by applicant lack unity of invention as detailed in office action 04/16/2008.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102b as being anticipated by Benjey U.S. Patent 6,484,741.

Applicant's claims are below with relevant citations.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system for supplying an internal combustion engine with a liquid fuel, comprising a tank, a pipe for the circulation of hot fuel between the engine and the tank and at least one sealed composite junction conduit for joining the pipe to the tank (**fig. 1**),

wherein the composite junction conduit comprises at least two hollow components each based on a different plastic, the said components being mechanically attached to each other and in communication with each other and include, between them, an overmolded seal (**fig. 1, claim 10, column 2 line 10-34, column 3 line 59+**).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 1, wherein one of the two hollow components includes a nozzle that is engaged in a socket of the other component and in that the socket is hermetically coupled to a tank and the nozzle is hermetically coupled to a hose (**fig. 1 sealing is inherent**).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benjey as applied to claim 1 in view of Muto.

To the extent that Benjey does not expressly define the catching element as set forth in applicant's claim Muto teaches this for improved sealing.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of fuel systems to combine the disclosure of Benjey with the teaching of Muto for the benefit of improved sealing. Applicant's claims are below with relevant citations.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 1, wherein the two hollow components are mechanically attached by means of a

catching element that forms part of one of the components and is embedded in the constituent plastic of the other component (**Muto: fig. 3a and 5, feature 34A and 36**).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benjey as applied to claim 1 above in view of Matsuoka U.S. Patent 5,643,997.

To the extent that Benjey does not expressly set forth the olefin material of applicant's claims this subject matter is obvious to one of ordinary skill given the disclosure of HDPE found in Benjey, and the teaching of Matsuoka: column 2 line 48+, column 5 line 59+

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 3, wherein the plastic of the socket is selected from olefin (co)polymers, the plastic of the nozzle is selected from lactam-derived (co)polymers, polyamide resins and polyacetals and the seal is made of a elastomer selected from nitrils and fluoroelastomers (**Benjey: claim 12-14**).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benjey as applied to claim 1 above in view of Wilson U.S. Patent 5,375,629.

Regarding the polyoxymethylen subject matter of applicant's claims this is considered to be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art given the disclosure Benjey claim 13 and the teaching of Wilson column 1 line 13-22.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 4, wherein the plastic of the nozzle is polyoxymethylen (POM).

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benjey.

To the extent that Benjey does not expressly disclose the metal disk of applicant's claims this is considered to be obvious to one of ordinary skill given the teaching of Benjey, figure 1 feature 46.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 1, wherein a metal disc is inserted between the two components.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J.PAGE HUFTY whose telephone number is (571)272-9966. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:00pm, Mon- Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen K. Cronin can be reached on 571-272-4536. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. Page Hufty/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3747

/Stephen K. Cronin/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3747